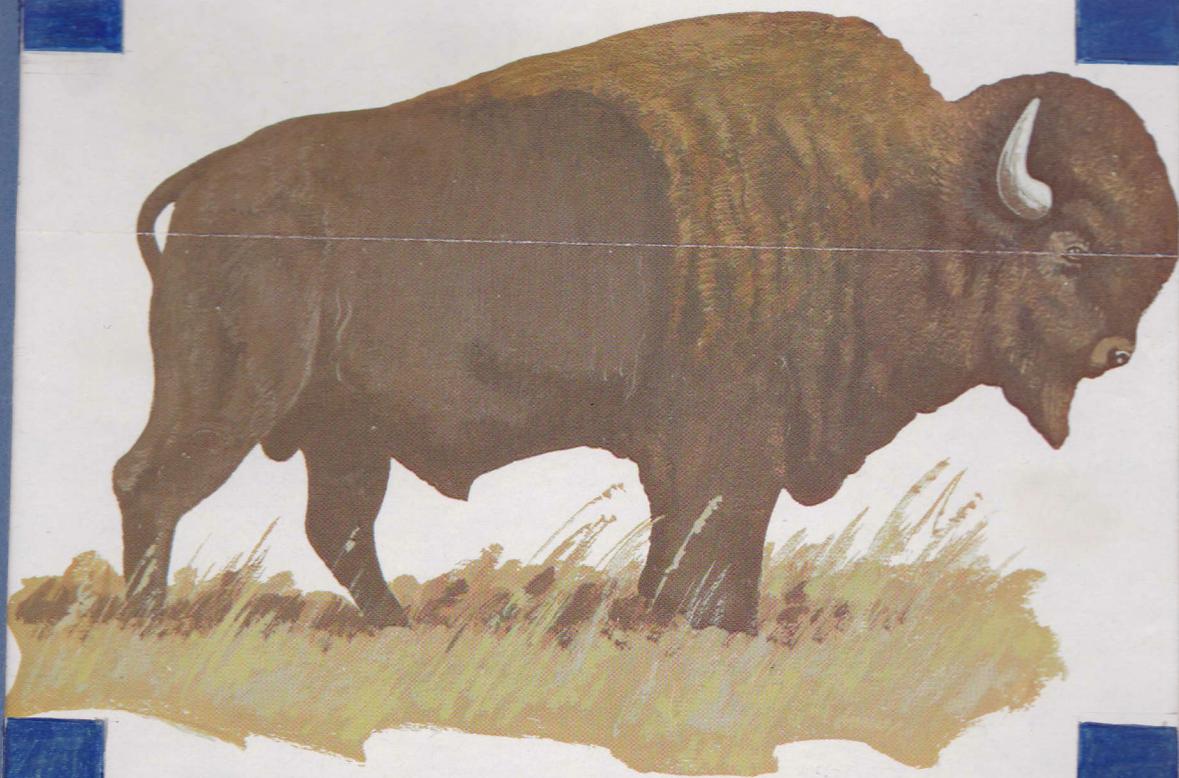


Formation Of BLN Club

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Biography Of Lloyd Lohr



The Buffalo Lake Naturalists Club was formed on January 18th. 1973, under the initiative of Lloyd Lohr, and with the assistance of Mrs. Helen Harris of Penhold who was President of The Alberta Natural History Society at the time. The first meeting was held at the home of Ralph Thornton at Erskine, with nineteen in attendance, including Herb and Helen Harris and son Leigh, also Mrs. Euretta Scoular of Red Deer. Five were elected to form a constitution, they were: Bob Graham, Rev. Archie McMullen, Ken Nelson, Ralph Thornton and Lloyd Lohr. The next meeting was held Feb. 18th. 1973 at the Town Hall in Stettler, when a name was chosen for the club, that being "the Buffalo Lake Naturalists". Thereafter, meetings were held every third Thursday of the month except in July and August. The meetings were held in the Town Hall Meeting room except for special occasions when they were held at the country homes of members such as the Herb Krugers who stage an annual hamburger cook-out each June, with proceeds going to the club. The last two years the meetings have been held in the Town and Country Museum.

Charter Members were: Lloyd Lohr, Ken and Elaine Nelson, Rev. Archie McMullen, Ralph and Millie Thornton, Bob Graham, Gordon and Marie Melary, Bob and Shirley Marshall, Barbara Shepherd, Martha Kruger and son Ron, Wilf and Gladys Hewlett, Eric and Barbara Smith, Earl and Elsie Cruikshank, George Blair, and Lloyd and Bernice Greenlee.

The membership fees were set at two dollars single, and three dollars for a family. The membership now stands at fifty-two. We are pleased to have as honored members (in absentee) Prof. C. D. Bird and family of Mirror, and Mary Lore of Calgary, who is now the President of The Federation Of Alberta Naturalists.

First President: Lloyd Lohr - 1973 - 1974

Secretary- Treasurer: Elaine Nelson - 1973

Secretary-Treasurer: - Bernice Greenlee - 1974

Second President: Eric Smith - 1975 and 1976.

Secretary: Bernice Greenlee - 1975.

Treasurer : Elsie Cruikshank - 1975

Secretary: Edna Haywood - 1976

Third President: Virginia Maitland - 1977 and 1978

Secretary: Mary Muhlbach - 1977 and 1978

Treasurer; Trudy Grafe - 1977-78 -and 79.

Fourth President : Lloyd Lohr - 1979 and 1980.

Secretary: Bertha Clarke - 1979 - and 1980.

Treasurer: Marvin Lohr - 1980.

Directors: Appointed to attend F.A.N. Meetings.

Edith Clark and Virginia Maitland - 1975 - 1976 - 1977.

Eric Smith and Jim Burrell - 1978 - 1979.

Eric Smith and Jim Burrell, with Elsie Doak as sub. - 1980.

Club Activities

The club has an active Program and Trail Committee, and a growing library. A yearly membership fee goes to F.A.N. and the "Alberta Naturalist" (individual members also subscribe to the A.N.) A sustaining membership is held with C.N.F. and four editions of "Nature Canada" are added to our library annually.

B.L.N. have endorsed all petitions on environmental issues, such as the proposed dam site on the Red Deer River, the Lake Louise development; and the Willmore Wilderness proposals. A new committee was formed in our club this year, called the "Environmental Protection Committee" comprised of seven volunteer members whose duty will be to seek out and report any condition that they feel is detrimental to the health of human and wild life.

Input from individuals within our club on "Coyote Concern" which was started by a southern Alberta group, has helped to focus attention on the matter of the diminishing Prairie coyote, to the point where consideration is being given to re-classify this animal from predator to "fur-bearing" to ensure it more protection.

More work is needed within the club on flower and plant study, and the keeping of seasonal records and field check-lists for the Phenology Dept. University of Calgary.

The Christmas Bird Count has been carried out each year, as well as the May Species Day Count, with Lloyd Lohr and Virginia Maitland acting as co-ordinators. Annual events are "The Early Bird Walk" to greet the first arrivals and spy on the grouse dancing grounds, and the "Water Fowl" hike in-May at the marsh near the S.W. limits of the town of Stettler.

We have one meeting a year devoted to "Nature Study only, with contests and discussion on collections of artifacts and specimens brought by the members. Recorded bird songs and calls are heard and studied.

The Trail Committee have their hiking and ski trails well-established and growing. The Bluebird Trail is checked throughout the season and banding is done. Nature bus tours and group trips by car have been enjoyed by the club. These include trips to Dinosaurer Prov. Park, Wainwright Falcon Breeding Station, Ministik Hills Field Study centre, the Bowthorp Wildlife refuge at Round Hill. Complete tours of the Provincial Museum in Edmonton, and the Glenbow in Calgary included members of the Rock club of Stettler.

The highlight of our club events to date was the hosting of the 1979 Fall F.A.N. Meeting at Stettler. Our program committee was grateful for the full and willing co-operation of the club in making the week-end a success.

We have been fortunate in having guest speakers from the Provincial Museum, namely: Hugh Smith, Julia Hrapko, Philip Currie and Jeff Doran, and from Parks Canada such knowledgable interpreters as Mark Trudel, Bill Fisher and Greg Belland, Chief Interpreter at Elk Island Park.

In 1978 a project was undertaken, when an 8x10 display panel was made by Jim Burrell for the local Museum, and depicts the projects and activities of our club including the Bluebird Trail. Work on the display was done by Virginia Maitland and Vera Hansen.

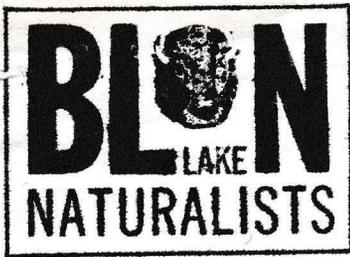
The first Newsletter was published in 1976 edited and illustrated by Virginia Maitland, with trail maps by Martha Kruger.

The club crest was designed by Virginia Maitland , using the map-shape of Buffalo Lake in silk-screen colours. the club stamp design was originated by Martha Kruger and finalized by Virginia Maitland. Both were completed in 1975 and appear below.

For 1980 our club has applied to the Anniversary Committee for a movie projector and screen. If granted this will enable us to have our own programs, using the many fine National Film Board movies that are available on request.

1980





*Form letter of welcome
To new members.*

Dear New Member:

We, the Buffalo Lake Naturalists, welcome you to our club. We hope that you will enjoy the activities and friendship of our group.

The Buffalo Lake Naturalists Club was formed in 1973, and now has a membership of . We are one of eight corporate clubs of The Federation Of Alberta Naturalists, which was formed in 1970.

Our purpose is to increase our knowledge of Natural History and Wildlife, and the preservation of their habitat.

Our meetings and programs are held on the third Thursday of each month, except July and August when no meetings are held, and only one or two outings. For information regarding our program, please phone the executive or Program Chairman.

Phone:

The phoning committee will inform you of meetings and coming events.

Cordially yours,

Secretary: Phone:

President: Phone:

Biography Of Lloyd M. Lohr

The son of early pioneers, Lloyd Malvern Lohr was born and raised in the Ewing Lake district, fifteen miles S.W. of the town of Stettler.

Growing up on the farm, and aided by his parents Lester and Beula Lohr, his interest in nature began at an early age, when wildlife was more abundant than now and their habitat much more extensive. Nature was his constant companion when he attended the little rural school which was three and one half miles from his home. Lloyd estimates that he tallied up seven thousand miles riding his horse to and from school over a span of eight years.

His early acquaintance with Kerry and Marjorie Wood of Red Deer was a treasured friendship and helped to foster his interest in nature. Lloyd recalls that Kerry loaned him his first bird book which he perused thoroughly; later Kerry helped him to obtain his first banding permit.

In later years Lloyd joined the Natural History Society Of Alberta, and also the Saskatchewan Natural History Society, and through these connections he began keeping Migration Records for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service until it was discontinued ten years ago, when it was changed over to the U.S. Breeding Bird Survey.

Through his interest in amateur photography he met Kay Hodges, a well-known nature photographer, whose work appears in "The Birds Of Alberta", and with her assistance he was able to improve and increase his now extensive slide collection which he is often called upon to show at club meetings and other occasions. Throughout the years he made valued contacts with professionals in the field of nature, which helped to round out his life as a very knowledgeable naturalist. He effectively combines his love of camping, canoeing and skiing with his natural interests. He enjoys organizing week-end trips to the mountains, and ski outings in the winter for the club often including members of the Red Deer River Naturalists and others.

Interest in forming a local naturalists club started in 1972, and with the assistance of Helen Harris of the Red Deer Natural History Society it became a reality in 1973, naming it "The Buffalo Lake Naturalists Club".

Lloyd served a two-year term as first President of the club, and at the present time is serving as the fourth. He has been a Director of F.A.N. since its inception 1970, and was vic-President in 1976-77. He was instrumental in obtaining bird houses from the Federation, and starting our Bluebird Trail, and also instructed members in banding.

As a contributor, having started a well established hiking Trail on his own and neighboring land, he served on the committee for "The Naturalists Guide For Alberta", which will be published and for sale this year.

A willing community worker, he has given his time as "Bird Study" instructor at the "Out-Door Science Lab." which operates every spring at the Bar Harbour Church Camp for the elementary school children of the County Of Stettler. He served as 4H Leader and leather work instructor for youth groups in his district for several years. Now semi-retired from farming, he operates a thriving Saddle and Leather Shop on his own place. Lloyd and his wife Dorothy have two daughters and one son. Evelyn Strandquist of Lakeview Stables, Ewing Lake, Lorraine Cathro of Saskatoon Sask. and Laverne at home, who has undertaken the farm operations. Three family dwellings comprise the beautiful home site of "Spruceyvale Farm"; his parental home where his mother still lives, his own, with wife Dorothy, and a mobile home for son Laverne and his family.

Interviewed, written, and submitted by News Letter editor:

Virginia R. Maitland.

